

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJ: 15 AUGUST 78 LETTER FROM REAR ADMIRAL ORDHOLM TO UNDER-
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PERRY (U)

REF: CONFIDENTIAL COPENHAGEN 5337 DTG O 181157Z AUG 78

1. FULL TEXT OF LETTER FROM REAR ADMIRAL RODHOLM, DEPUTY CHIEF OF
STAFF LOGISTIC DANISH DEFENCE STAFF TO UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE
RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING-PERRY FOLLOWS QUOTE

" TO THE HONOURABLE WILLIAM J. PERRY,
UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENCE,
RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE,
WASHINGTON D.C. 20301,
USA
DEAR DR PERRY,
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FROM THE 28TH TO THE 30TH OF JUNE 1978 A MEETING WAS HELD IN
WASHINGTON BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND DENMARK IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE FULL-SCALE ENGINEERING
DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF THE EX-31/RAM PROGRAMME.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS THE EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES WERE INFORMED OF THE EXISTENCE OF A POLICY PAPER ON COMPENSATORY CO-PRODUCTION AND OFFSET AGREEMENTS WITH ALLIED NATIONS, DATED THE 4TH OF MAY, ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENCE.

IT IS STATED IN THE MEMORANDUM, THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE SHALL NOT NORMALLY ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, WHICH OBLIGATE THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PLACE ORDERS FOR SYSTEMS OR COMPONENTS IN SUCH COUNTRIES, OR TO REQUIRE US PRIVATE CONTRACORS TO PLACE ORDERS AND SUB-CONTRACTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, AS A CONDITION FOR THE SALE OF US DEFENCE ARTICLES TO THOSE COUNTRIES.

FRANKLY THE WORDING OF THE MEMORANDUM TROUBLES ME A GREAT DEAL. IF THE POLICY IS CARRIED OUT STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES IT CONTAINS, IT MAY EFFECTIVELY KILL ALL FUTURE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH COOPERATION IN THE FILDS OF DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARMED FORCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES. I CAN, FOR INSTANCE, NOT IMAGINE THAT DENMARK WOULD ENTER INTO ANY DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION AGREEMENT, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCING OF THE INTIAL PHASES, WITHOUT HAVING A REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND/OR THE PRODUCTION WOULD BE PLACED IN DENMARK.

AN OFFICIAL DANISH ACTION HAS NOT BEEN ARRIVED AT YET. WE DO NOT NORMALLY LIKE TO OVER-REACT, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THE MEMORANDUM
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POSES SOME SERIOUS PROBLEMS TO US, AS I HAVE TRIED TO OUTLINE ABOVE. WE REALIZE OF COURSE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE FORESEEN OFFSET AGREEMENTS RELATED TO THE F-16 PROGRAMME, AND PROBABLY ALSO OTHER PROGRAMMES, BUT I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT THE DIFFICULTIES MIGHT BE OVERCOME BY OTHER MEANS, NOT ENDANGERING THE COOPERATION WHICH NOW FINALLY SEEMS TO BEGIN TO WORK.

WITH MY BEST REGARDS
RODHOLM
REAR ADMIRAL
DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF LOGISTICS

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